

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Catherine Gowen on March 25, 2010.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, step a) after, "incubating a sample with antigen positive red blood cells (RBCs)", --admixed with a low ionic strength diluent-- has been inserted.

Claim 1 should therefore recite:

1. *A method for reducing time to result in the form of agglutination in immunohematology assays, comprising :*

(a) incubating a sample with antigen positive red blood cells ("RBCs") admixed with a low ionic strength diluent at 37°C for from 2 minutes to 15 minutes with continuous agitation;

(b) centrifuging the product of the admixture in step (a) in an anti-IgG matrix for 10 minutes; and

(c) reading the result in the form of agglutination.

Claim 8 has been canceled.

In claim 9, line 1 after, "The method of claim", "8" has been deleted and --1-- has been inserted therefor.

Art Unit: 1641

Claims 10-24 have been cancelled.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a method of reducing time of resulting an agglutination formation in immunohematology assays, thus reducing time required for the assay, which incorporates the process of continuous agitation during the entire time of incubation of serum or plasma sample with antigen positive red blood cells in admixture with low ionic strength diluent solution at 37 °C for 2-15 minutes, prior to centrifuging the product admixture in anti-IgG matrix and reading the result for agglutination formation.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GAIENE R. GABEL whose telephone number is (571)272-0820. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 5:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

Art Unit: 1641

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark L. Shibuya can be reached on (571) 272-0806. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/GAILENE R. GABEL/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1641

April 20, 2010